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# Guantanamo Is Ordered On Alert in Cuba Row

## Navy to Supply Water; Johnson Announces Cut In Natives' Employment

By Murrey Marder
Staff Reporter

President Johnson last night gave orders to make the American naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, "self-sufficient" in water supplies and on the alert for further "reckless and irresponsible conduct" by the

Cuban government.

A reduction in the employment of 3000 Cubans at the United States base also was ordered, to cut the $5 million a year that their wages put into the Cuban economy.

The President also asked all nations, especially this Nation's Latin American and European NATO allies, to re-examine the fact that Communist Cuba "remains a constant threat to the peace of this Hemisphere." That implied renewed attempts by the United States to try to shore up the flagging effort to tighten the economic squeeze on the regime of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

These relatively moderate decisions were announced after a second lengthy top-level strategy conference at the White House yesterday in a day of intensive discussions across Washington about ways to cope with Cuba's cut-off of fresh water supplies to the American base.

Cuba shut off the water line Thursday after giving the United States a 45-minute ultimatum that it would do so unless the United States released four Cuban fishing vessels and their crews. They were seized Sunday on charges of illegally fishing in territorial waters off Florida.

**Will Guarantee Security**

"The United States is determined to guarantee the security of the Guantanamo Naval Base," the White House said last night, "and does not intend to submit the security or the welfare of the servicemen and their families who live there to further irresponsible actions by the Cuban government."

By its decision last night, the Johnson Administration sidestepped all the drastic courses of action that had been suggested in the first angry outbursts on Capitol Hill against Castro's action.

There had been Capitol Hill talk of the likelihood of taking all kinds of action ranging from blockading Cuba to "sending in the Marines."

Administration sources last night noted that what the United States was dealing with was a breach of contract by Cuba on supplying water, rather than what could be construed as an act of war, In response, these sources said, the United States was taking adequate action to protect its interests and to put Castro on notice if Cuba should attempt any more drastic action.

**Rusk Says We'll Stay**

A few hours earlier, Secretary of State Dean Rusk said if Communist Cuba is trying to squeeze the United States out of Guantanamo, the attempt is certain to fail.

"The basic fact is that we are in Guantanamo and will remain there for the forseeable future," Rusk said.

What American officials are weighing is what next steps, if any, Castro may take; how the United States should retaliate, and, above all, the East-West implications of the new Cuban tangle. A major question that confronts the Johnson Administration is how far the Soviet Union will back Castro in his latest clash with the United States.

Rusk, at a news conference, flatly rejected Cuba's contention that cutting off the Cuban supply of water was a justifiable reprisal for United States detention of four Cuban fishing vessels and their crews.

Cuba's attempt "to link these two incidents is not only mischievous and unproductive, "Rusk said, but "it is entirely inadmissible to us here in the United States."

See POLICY, A7, Col. 1

*Text of President Johnson's statement on Guantanamo dispute.* *Page E12.*

*Text of Secretary Rusk's statement.* *Page E12.*

*Captains of Cuban boats said they intruded in U.S. waters because of Gulf storm.* *Page A16.*

*Castro fails to keep promise to turn on Guantanamo water for an hour daily.* *Page A16.*

Rusk produced new information that two captains of the boats "have admitted to Coast Guard officials that they were knowingly fishing in United States waters" in the Dry Tortugas Islands off Key West.

Radio conversations between one of the boats and Havana on Sunday, the day the vessels and 38 crewmen were seized, said Rusk, showed the following conversation:

"Havana: Where are you anchored?

"Lambda 33: Well, we are East of Tortugas. Go ahead.

"Havana: International waters?

"Lambda 33: Well, no; this is national waters. National waters.

"Havana: I understand."

That conversation, plus the United States' knowledge of the vessels' location, said Rusk, "completely disproves the claim of the Cuban government that the Cuban boats were in international waters when apprehended."

Cuba, at 11:15 on Thursday, gave the Swiss Ambassador in Havana a note saying the water supply to the American naval base would be cut at noon unless the boats, and 36 of the crewmen jailed in Florida were released in that 45-minute interval.

**Protest Note Spurned**

Rusk said that at 4 p.m. Thursday when the Czech Embassy here tried to delived a Cuban protest note on detention of the vessels and their crews, the State Department refused to accept it "because of its gross distortion of the facts and its highly offensive language."

Cuba has charged that seizure of the boats and crews was "insolent, arbitrary and illegal" and said the men were "kidnaped" by the United States.

Rusk said, without implification, that "we have noticed Cuban broadcasts which suggest a concerted campaign against our presence in Guantanamo."